Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
1000-Day Plan

Strategy #1 - <u>Enhance Utah's life quality and economic viability</u>

A major emphasis of the department's mission is to "ensure consumers receive a safe, wholesome and properly labeled supply of food, fiber and other agricultural products." Food safety, public health and consumer protection is a critical and essential function of state government. In order to accomplish this mission, with increased population and industry growth, we are identifying ways and means to fund the regulatory functions of the department. In addition, we continue to educate the consuming public on the importance of agriculture and the value of maintaining a viable agriculture industry.

Action Step:

1. Review existing state codes and identify areas for update and change to allow for establishing a fee based registration/inspection program.

2. Establish a restricted fund account, through service fees, to fund critical public health responsibilities, while not diminishing existing General Fund base.

3. Promote Utah's Olympic Environmental and Public Health branding Message, "Where Life and Landscape Connect" on promotional material, mailings and marketing initiatives.

4. Educate and inform the public about the department's values which are: AGRICULTURE means a SAFE FOOD SUPPLY; AGRICULTURE means a CLEAN, HEALTHY and FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT; AGRICULTURE offers an HONORABLE PROFESSION.
    i. Each of our publications will incorporate at least one of the department's values.

5. Protect high-quality farmland through the Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund.
    i. Conserve an average of 100 acres a year of high quality farmland.

6. Increase on-farm bio-security through.
    i. Training ranchers, farmers, ag. technicians and inspectors on the importance of using good bio-security measures.
    ii. Identifying essential elements of an on-farm bio-security kit and implementing its use.

7. Ensure a safe food product through the implementation of farm to consumer "branded" products with the use of:
    i. Implementation of UCHAP – Utah Cattle Health Assurance Program
    ii Continued implementation of the Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program (UEQAP)
    iii. Development of GIS tracking system which identifies location of resources, incidents and "at risk" populations.
    iv. Improve electronic advancement and technology by equipping and training staff on the use of computers and electronic technology.

       v.   Use the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) based inspection programs.

8. Increase disease surveillance and monitoring of livestock, poultry and fish populations to prevent the spread of animal borne diseases. This will be accomplished by:

      i.   Implement rules pertaining to the movement and testing of domestic elk to prevent the spread of CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) among domestic and wild deer and elk.
      ii.   Train employees in the area of domestic and foreign animal disease recognition and control.
      iii.   Improve and implement homeland security.

9. Improve Utah's environment by encouraging water & soil conservation, and providing technical assistance and incentives.
      i.   Maintain conservation partnerships with public and private land owners.
      ii.   Implement more AFO/CAFO grants and conservation and development loans.

10. Protect public health through increased pesticide safety
      i.   Increase pesticide ground water sampling to statewide
      ii.   Expand Worker Protection Standards to agricultural greenhouses
      iii.   Expand pesticide endangered species protection program

Strategy #2 - <u>Invest in people</u>

Utah has a well-educated and well-trained workforce and appropriate compensation is critical to maintain the expertise and knowledge base of highly trained employees.

Action Step:

1. Work with DHRM in classifying employee positions appropriately and working with the legislative budget process to obtain necessary funding for compensation.

Strategy #3 - <u>Develop Utah as a center for technology investment, employment and entrepreneurship</u>

The department will look at opportunities to utilize eGovernment and expand electronic services within department programs and adapt to new technological advancements in order to more effectively accomplish the mission of the department.

Action Step:

1. Expand on-line services for department licensing and registration and implement usage of credit card as a means of payment.
      i.   Online customer services via the Internet 24/7
      ii.   Online registration and licensing (ie. pesticide, bedding and quilted clothing, and, etc).

2. Expand department's computer capabilities to conduct inspections, capturing inspection data and downloading information to department database. This will eliminate the need for double entry of inspection data and will reduce paperwork and file space.

3. Technology will allow the Public Information Office to communicate directly and quickly with the public and agricultural producers.
   i. Offer newsmakers' sound bites on the department's Internet web page.

4. Permanently establish the department's Olympic communications plan as the department's emergency communications policy.
   i. Hold frequent State Emergency Response Team (SERT) / Agriculture Leadership Response Team (ALRT) meetings to share important department information.

5. Acquire laboratory equipment that uses new technology to reduce hazardous chemical usage and increase laboratory efficiencies. Also investigate areas to improve statewide laboratory capabilities.
   i. Relocating the Provo based USU Extension Lab
   ii. Obtain lab accreditation at all state-operated labs

6. Develop a high tech emergency response unit, capable of traveling to the site of a foreign animal disease, natural disaster or bio-terrorism activity where an incident command center could be established to contain and control the problem. By:
   i. Equipping an emergency response disease trailer
   ii. Preparing an emergency response plan and establishing a communications command post.

7. Enhance Utah's Brand Image and Promoting Agricultural products by:
   i. Creating Product of Utah stores to showcase Utah Ag products
   ii. Promoting Utah products at national and international food shows
   iii. Hosting national and international trade delegations
   iv. Securing federal specialty crop grants from USDA
   v. Continued use of Market Access Program (MAP) funds to generate foreign export of Ag. products

8. Upgrade computer, LAN and WAN resources to streamline efficiencies and better serve the public and employees
   iii. Convert Information Technology wiring to run at 1000mb per second

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Milestones

Day 5 – Feb. 8, 2002
Olympic "Product of Utah Store" opens to promote Utah Ag. products

Day 15 – Feb. 18, 2002
Renew process begins for category 1 Federal Meat Inspection rating

Day 17, Feb 23
Strengthen pesticide applicator licensing process (anti-terrorism)

Day 20 - Feb. 23, 2002
Implementation of UCHAP – Utah Cattle Health Assurance Program

Day 25 - Feb 28, 2002
Ground water reports distributed on CD ROM

Day 30 – March 5, 2002
Strengthened surveillance of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Utah

Day 36 – March 11, 2002
Issuing of department bio-security kits to livestock veterinarians and other staff (anti-terrorism)

Day 37 – March 12, 2002
UDAF promotes Utah branded foods at Asian food shows

Day 41 – March 16, 2002
Olympics and Paralympics conclude without any major food borne related illness

Day 50 (March 25, 2002)
Department adopts its Olympic emergency communications plan
as its official emergency communications plan

Day 57 – April 1, 2002
Complete implementation of a statewide HACCP program
for all official and custom-exempt meat plants

Day 58 - April 2, 2002
Use of newly designed software program for Brand Certificate Audits

Day 71 – April 15, 2002
Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) go into effect to offer additional food safety inspections at farms.

Day 87 - May 1, 2002
Converted Information Technology wiring to a Cat 5 level 7 wiring
which will run at 1000mb per second

Day 89 – May 3, 2002
Utah among first 10 states with certified organic program

Day 94 - May 8, 2002
U.S. EPA recognizes department's AFO/CAFO clean water program as national model

Day 94 - May 8, 2002
UDAF awards $640,000 in specialty crop and Ag. promotion grants to 32 producers

Day 100 – May 14, 2002
Internally developed computer software to allow for total integration
of dairy inspections and laboratory tests

Day 116 – May 30, 2002
UDAF hosts three China trade delegations seeking Utah food products

Day 118 – June 18, 2002
Increased surveillance for African Bee, Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, and Red Imported Fire Ants

Day 120 – June 3, 2002
First state agency to initiate survey of customers regarding online service use

Day 130 - June 13, 2002
Water conservation information is made available on the UDAF web site following a state and federal
drought, insect, frost, and wind damage disaster declaration.

Day 145 – June 28, 2002
UDAF awards $337,000 in water quality grants to 29 farmers/ranchers

Day 148 – July 1, 2002
Participation in the National Sheep Identification Program (national bio-security)

Day 165 – July 18, 2002
Tightening of regulations regarding the movement and testing of domestic elk
to prevent the spread of CWD among domestic and wild deer and elk.

Day 169 – July 22, 2002
UDAF promotes livestock genetics at Argentine livestock show

Day 193 August 15, 2002
Annual Report produced on CD ROM format to capitalize on the benefits of digital technology.

Day 197 - August 19, 2002
Completion of the Utah's largest Mormon cricket and grasshopper control effort
as more than 100,000 acres are treated, with the state contributing $300,000.

Day 200 - August 22, 2002 (pending)
UDAF and USDA-NRCS announce signing of conservation easement
on 13.1 acres of high quality farmland in Cache County.

Day 240 - October 1, 2002
Online license renewal to begin